

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041653  
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /120 R

DRAFTED BY IO/HR:RFTAUBENFELD:FEJ:EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY  
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IO/UNA - MR. TEFFT  
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S/MS - MR. SHULMAN  
EUR/SOV - MR. GARRISON  
EUR/RPM - MR. KORNBLUM

-----055213 162331Z /65

P 162201Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041653

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNHRC, UR

SUBJECT: ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWRY AT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1. ON FEBRUARY 1, 1978 A DELEGATION OF AMERICAN SUPPORT-  
ERS OF SOVIET JEWRY CALLED ON THE SECRETARY TO DISCUSS  
CURRENT PLIGHT OF JEWS IN USSR. DURING DISCUSSION A  
SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT THE ISSUE OF THE TREATMENT OF  
SOVIET JEWRY HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN THE HRC BY THE U.S.  
SINCE EARLY IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. THE SECRETARY  
PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

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2. DEPARTMENT SUBSEQUENTLY REVIEWED THE ISSUE AT RECENT  
HRC MEETINGS. THE RECORD INDICATES THAT THE LAST FORMAL  
STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE HRC WAS IN FACT IN  
APRIL, 1972. OF COURSE, THE 1973 AGENDA INCLUDED A REVIEW  
OF THE "STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN RESPECT OF THE RIGHT OF  
EVERYONE TO LEAVE ANY COUNTRY, INCLUDING HIS OWN, AND TO  
RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY." THIS ITEM PLUS THE PERENNIAL

ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A "DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGIOUS BELIEF," WHICH IS ON THE PRESENT AGENDA, ARE BOTH RELEVANT.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT U.S. INTEREST IN SOVIET JEWRY AND GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN USSR SHOULD BE EXPRESSED AT SOME POINT DURING HRC SESSION. THESE ISSUES HAVE RECEIVED MUCH ATTENTION AT BELGRADE AND DEVELOPMENTS THERE NEED TO BE ASSESSED BEFORE DETERMINING HOW WE MIGHT RAISE OUR CONCERN AT GENEVA IN MOST PRODUCTIVE WAY. OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING IS THAT, AFTER BELGRADE WINDS UP, DELEGATION MIGHT PRESENT GENERAL STATEMENT SETTING FORTH U.S. VIEWS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND EXPRESSING RIGHT TO EMIGRATE, ETC., WHICH WOULD NOT NECESSARILY SINGLE OUT USSR, BUT WOULD CLEARLY POINT OUT MOST SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS EXISTING IN THE USSR. WE FEEL SUCH A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE, WHICH COULD BE PRESENTED TOWARD END OF HRC SESSION, WOULD BE USEFUL WAY TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION ON SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WHICH WE HAVE PURSUED AT BELGRADE.

4. DELEGATION'S VIEWS ARE REQUESTED. IF DELEGATION AGREES WITH THIS APPROACH, WE WOULD WELCOME RECEIPT OF POINTS WE MIGHT INCLUDE IN DRAFTING STATEMENT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, INVESTIGATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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